POL 14 VIETS

(1032)

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ACTION EA 19

INFO SAL 01, SAH 03, IO 21, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10,
NSAE 00, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, AID 30, RSR 01,
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izarbeg DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REVIEWED
DECLASSIFY ☑ RELEASE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 071300Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6396
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4159
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 908
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2462

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5127

SUBJECT: JOINT PROTEST BY DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

REF: SAIGON 5145 — Pol 14 Viets

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER SIGNED BY EIGHT DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, PROTESTING ELECTION IRREGULARITIES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THIEU-KY SLATE. LETTER WAS SENT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN PHAN KHAC SUU, ONE OF CO-

(1)

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SIGNRS, ON SEPTEMBER 5 AND DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC FOLLOWING IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE ON STEPS OF ASSEMBLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 7 (REPORTED REFTEL).

2. QUOTE

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SAIGON, SEPTEMBER 5, 1967

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN,
WE, THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WHOSE SIGNATURES APPEAR BELOW, HAVE THE HONOR TO SUBMIT TO YOU OUR COMPLAINT AGAINST TICKET 3 OF NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND NGUYEN CAO KY FOR THE FOLLOWING IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED BY BY THEM BEFORE AND DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

1) MR. NGUYEN CAO KY DECLARED IN LATE JULY, 1967 THAT HE WOULD OVERTHROW ANY POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. HIS DECLARATION HAD THE EFFECT OF SOWING CONFUSION AMONG THE POPULATION WHO HAD TO RELUCTANTLY VOTE FOR THE MILITARY SLATE OF NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND NGUYEC CAO KY FOR FEAR OF A COUP D'ETAT;

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2) NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND NGUYEN CAO KY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR POSITIONS TO INDIRECTLY OR DIRECTLY CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR SLATE DRING THE ENTIRE RECENT PERIOD INSTEAD OF TAKING LEAVES OFN ABSENCE AS PRESCRIBED XY THE LAW (ART. 17 OF THEIELECTION LAW 1/67 PROMULGATED ON JULY 15, 1967).

3) ONSEPTEMBER 2, 1967 AT 6:30 PM, THAT IS AFTER THE END OF THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN AUTHORIZED BY ART. 23 OF ELECTION LA XYUN NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND NGUYEN CAO KY GAVE A RECEPTION AT INDEPENA DENCE PALACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPAGANDIZICG FOR THEIR SLATE.

4) ON THE SAME DAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1967 FROM 8:00PM TO 9:00PM NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND NGUYEN CAO KY APPEARED ON TELEVISION, EACH FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR, MR. NGUYEN VAN THIEU UNDER THE PRETEXT OF ACHIEVING A FAIR, AND CLEAN ELECTION. MR. NGUYEN CAO KY D RECTLY TOUCHED ON THE ELECTION CONTEST BETWEEN THE CANDIDATES. IN DONSEQUENCE, THEY BOTH VIOLATED ART. 23 OF THE ELECTION LAW MENTIONED ABOVE.

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5) THE FOLLOWING DAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1967, BEFOKE THE ELECTION BEGAN, THE TEXT OE MR. NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S SPEECH WAS BROADCAST HROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OE STRONGLY INFLUENCING THE ELECTORS BEFORE THEY WENT TO THE POLLS. THIS ACT, LIKE THEIR APPEARANCE ON TELEVISION THE DAY BEFORE, WAS A VILOATION OF ART. 23 OF THE ELECTION LAW A
ND OPEN TO QUESTION THE HONESTY OF THE
VOTING AND AFFECT THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE ELECTION" (ART. 96 OF ELECTION LAW 1/67).

BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACTS, WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO ABOLISH THE ENTIRE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND ORGANIZE A NEW ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 51, 52, 56 AND 57 OF ELECTION LAW 1/67 OF JULY 15, 1967.

TICKET ONE PHAN KHAC SUU
TICKET THREE HOANG CO XINH
TICKET FOUR TRUONG DINH DZU
TICKET SIX PHAM HUY CO
UNQUOTE.

TICKET SEVEN TRAN VAN L
TICKET EIGHT NGUYEN HOA HIEP
TICKET TEN VU HONG KHANH
TICKETELEVEN NGUYEN DINH QUAT

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3. COMMENT: A) THIS IS A RELATIVELY UNIMPRESSIVE SET OF CHARGES. KY'S STACEMENTS WITH REGARD TO OVERTHORWING ELECTED GOVERNMENT (EVEN ASSUMING HE WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED) WERE PERHAPS BETTER
N
LEFT UNSAID, BUT THEY HARDLY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF ELECTORAL LAW. IT IS OF COURSE TRUE THAT THIEU AND KY MADE NUMEROUS "NON-POLITICAL" TRIPS DURING CAMPAIGN, BUT HERE AGAIN IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PROVE VIOLATION OF THE LAW SINCE THOSE ACTIVITIES WERE OSTENSIBLY FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES. SEPTEMBER 2 RECEPTION WAS IN HONOR OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS; ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND HEADS OF ALL UPPER HOUSE SLATES WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. THIEU-KY TELEVISION ADDRESSES OF SEPTEMBER 2 WERE UNDERTAKEN IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS CHIEF OF STATE AND PRIME MINISTER.

IN SUM, THESE CHARGES AMOUNT TO COMPLAINT THAT THIEU AND KY

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WERE INCUMBENTS AND ENJOYED ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENTS. A FACT WHICH NATIONAW ASSEMBLY CONSIDERED AND ACCEPTED ON JULY 18.

GP-3. BUNKER

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